

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 13, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-104)

TO: Chris Furey, KEWR-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Water Entity (Deschutes Resources Conservancy 2003)

Project No: 2002-013-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement

Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.18: Purchase /
Negotiate Water Right; 4.19: File for Instream Water Right

Location: Prineville, Crook County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, implemented by the Deschutes Resources Conservancy

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund several water rights acquisition projects proposed by the Deschutes Resources Conservancy (DRC). The funding will be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the entity administering the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program, initiated under RPA 151 of the National Marine Fisheries Service's 2000 Biological Opinion on the Operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The water rights acquired by the DRC will be left instream to increase flow and improve water quality.

The three projects proposed by the DRC include: leasing 2.37 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the Ochoco Irrigation District by reverse auction, for the Crooked River for the 2003 irrigation season; renewing a lease of 0.88 cfs of water for Little Bear Creek for a period of 5 years; and leasing 1.22 cfs for Ochoco Creek and the Crooked River from the Ochoco Irrigation District for a period of 2 years.

Analysis: The compliance checklists for these projects were completed by Ray Hartwell, DRC, and meet the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The proposed projects are located above the Pelton Dam, an impassable fish passage barrier. The only listed fish species present are bull trout, which are found throughout the stream reaches affected by the proposed transactions. Informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding affects on bull trout is ongoing and will be finished prior to project implementation.

No other environmental review or consultation is required as part of the proposed projects, because there is no ground disturbance or construction associated with the proposal. The DRC has a program for public involvement, including using the local media and their website to provide information and receive comments. The DRC has also coordinated with several regulating agencies that have their own public notice requirements, such as the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Richard Yarde
Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ James M. Kehoe for
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6/16/03

Attachments:
3 Environmental Checklists

cc: (w/o attachments)
Mr. Ray Hartwell, Deschutes Resources Conservancy, 700 NW Hill St., Bend, OR 97701
Mr. Andrew Purkey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 806 SW Broadway, Suite 750
Portland, Oregon 97205